First commercial launch of PSLV-C8

3942. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PSLV-C8 rocket is set to make its first commercial launch;

(b) if so, the total value of the launching contract and the number of satellites which are proposed to be launched by PSLV-C8 rocket;

(c) whether the commercial launch is a beginning of our country entering the world space industry and so far which all new launch deals have been signed; and

(d) if so, what would be our share in the world market and the steps which are being initiated to help it for greater penetration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. PSLV-C8 rocket has already successfully launched an Italian scientific satellite called AGILE weighing 352 kg as a primary payload on 23rd April, 2007 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

(b) The total value of the launching contract was 7.38 million euros and the PSLV-C8 mission launched one satellite, namely, AGILE.

(c) Yes, Sir. Agreements have been signed for launching three other foreign satellites.

(d) It is aimed to get about 2% of the world commercial satellite launch market to start with and several steps are being taken to contact potential customers and to create greater awareness among them on the launch opportunities on PSLV.

Achievements made by ISRO

†3943. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Inidan Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has made a place in the space club dominated by big countries;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.